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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method of preparing a body side mounting wafer for attachment to a person (5) and an ostomy bag (12), the method comprising:

- providing a first part (14) having a first surface (14'') having one or more means adapted to be attached to or fixed to a body part of the person (5), and a second, opposite, surface, the first part having a first absorption coefficient at a predetermined wavelength of electromagnetic radiation,
- providing a second part (16) having a first surface (16'') having one or more means (16'', 16''') adapted to be attached to or fixed to the ostomy bag (12) and a second, opposite, surface, the second part having a second absorption coefficient at the predetermined wavelength of electromagnetic radiation, the first and second absorption coefficients being different,
- positioning the first (14) and second (16) parts so as to abut at one or more zones of the second surface of the second part and of the first part, at least part of one zone (W) being aligned with the attaching/fixing means of the first and second parts, and

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- providing electromagnetic radiation (18), comprising radiation having the predetermined wavelength, through that of the first and second parts having the lowest absorption coefficient to the one or more zones (W) so as to heat the other of the first and second parts at the one or more zones in order to, upon cooling, fix the first and second parts to each other.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first part has a first opening, the second part has a second opening, and wherein the positioning step comprises positioning the first and second parts so that the first and second openings coextend.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the step of providing the second part comprises providing a second part where the attaching/fixing means comprise a surface adapted to engage an adhesive part of the ostomy bag, the surface extending to an edge of the second opening and wherein at least one of the one or more zones is positioned in a vicinity of the edge of the second opening.

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4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing that of the first and second parts having the highest absorption coefficient comprises providing the respective part with: a material having the first or second absorption coefficient at least at the one or more zones, and, at other parts of the respective part, another material having a third absorption coefficient at the predetermined wavelength.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined wavelength is determined within the interval of 0.7-6 μm .

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising, during the step of providing the radiation, maintaining, using a fastening means, the first and second parts in the abutting position, the step of providing the radiation comprising providing the radiation through the fastening means.

7. (Currently Amended) A body side mounting wafer for attachment to a person ~~(5)~~ and an ostomy bag ~~(12)~~, the wafer comprising:

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[[-]] a first part ~~(14)~~ having a first surface ~~(16')~~ adapted to be attached to or fixed to a body part of the person and a second, opposite surface [[,]]; ;

[[-]] a second part ~~(16)~~ having a first surface ~~(14')~~ adapted to be attached to the ostomy bag ~~(12)~~ and a second, opposite surface [[,]]; ;

[[-]] one or more welds ~~(W)~~ formed at one or more welding zones between the second surfaces of the first part ~~(14)~~ and the second part ~~(16)~~, at least one weld zone extending over a first distance in a radial direction [[,]]; and

~~wherein the first surface (16')~~ of the second part ~~(16)~~ is being at least substantially smooth at the at least one weld zone ~~(W)~~ and over a second distance extending over the at least one weld zone, the second distance extending in the radial direction and being at least 1.5 times the first distance.

8. (Currently Amended) A The body side mounting wafer according to claim 7, wherein no 2 mm part of the first surface of the second part, in a cross section along the radial direction and over the second distance, has any part deviating more than 0.2 mm from a flat shape fitted to the 2 mm part.

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9. (Currently Amended) A body side mounting wafer for attachment to a person ~~(5)~~ and an ostomy bag ~~(12)~~, the wafer comprising:

[[~~-~~]] a first part ~~(14)~~ having a first surface ~~(14')~~ having one or more surfaces or elements ~~(14')~~ adapted to be attached to or fixed to a body part of the person ~~(5)~~ and a second, opposite surface; [[~~-~~]],

[[~~-~~]] a second part ~~(16)~~ having a first surface ~~having~~ with one or more surfaces or elements ~~(16')~~, ~~(16')~~ adapted to be attached to the ostomy bag ~~(12)~~ and a second, opposite surface; [[~~-~~]]

at least one weld zone ~~[[~~-~~]] one or more welds (W)~~ formed ~~at one or more welding zones (W)~~ between the second surfaces of the first part ~~(14)~~ and the second part; ~~(16)~~,

said first surface of the second part being at least substantially smooth at the at least one weld zone; and wherein

the one or more surfaces or elements of the first surface ~~(16')~~ of the second part being ~~(16)~~ is aligned with at least part of the zones ~~(W)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The body side mounting wafer according to claim 7, wherein:

the first part ~~(14)~~ has a first opening; ~~(14')~~,

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the second part ~~(16)~~ has a second opening; ~~(16')~~,
the zones ~~(W)~~ being positioned in a vicinity of the
edge of the second opening ~~(16')~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A body side mounting wafer according to claim 9, wherein the surfaces or elements ~~attaching/fixing means~~ of the second part are adapted to snap-fit to corresponding elements ~~means~~ on the ostomy bag.

12. (Original) An apparatus for performing the method of claim 1, the apparatus comprising: fastening means (22) for receiving and holding the first (14) and second parts (16) in the abutting relationship and means for providing the radiation (18) to the one or more zones.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the radiation providing means are adapted to provide the radiation through the fastening means.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus for assembling a~~ The body side wafer according to claim 7, ~~the~~ further comprising an apparatus ~~comprising~~ for assembling said body side wafer that includes:

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[[~~-~~]] a fastening element ~~means (22)~~ for maintaining the first ~~(14)~~ and second parts ~~(16)~~ in a predetermined, abutting relationship; and

[[~~-~~]] ~~means~~ an element for providing electromagnetic radiation ~~(18)~~ to the zone(s) to form the weld(s) ~~(W)~~.

15. (New) The body side mounting wafer according to claim 7, wherein:

the first part has a first opening;

the second part has a second opening; and

the zones are positioned in a vicinity of the edge of the second opening.

16. (New) The body side mounting wafer according to claim 7, wherein the weld is a laser weld provided in a single line provided around an opening of the wafer, said first distance being the width of the weld.

17. (New) The body side mounting wafer according to claim 7, wherein multiple welds are provided along the radial direction.

18. (New) The body side mounting wafer according to claim 7, wherein the first part has a general thickness profile which

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describes a desired thickness along a specific direction in the part(s), where the actual thickness, over the second distance, deviates less than 10% from the thickness of the general thickness profile over the distance.

19. (New) The body side mounting wafer according to claim 7, wherein the first surface of the second part is adapted to form an adhesive coupling to the ostomy bag, and wherein the smooth surface is so smooth that the adhesive, and/or a component of the bag holding the adhesive, is able to take up any variations in the surface from the intended shape of the surface.

20. (New) The body side mounting wafer according to claim 7, wherein the first surface of the second part has no 2 mm part thereof, in a cross section along the radial direction and over the second distance, in which any part deviates more than 0.2 mm from a flat shape fitted to the 2 mm part.

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REMARKS

The Restriction Requirement mailed October 2, 2008, has been carefully reviewed. By this Amendment, claims 7-11 and 14 have been amended, and new claims 15-20 have been added. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 7 and 9 are independent.

In the Requirement for Restriction, the Examiner stated that the captioned application includes three distinct inventions: Invention I, claims 1-6, 12 and 13, drawn to a method of preparing a body side wafer; Invention II, claims 7, 8, 10 and 14, drawn to a body side wafer with a smooth first surface; and Invention III, claims 9 and 11, drawn to a wafer.

Applicants hereby elect Invention II (claims 7, 8, 10 and 14) directed to a body side wafer with a smooth first surface, and do so with traverse as to Invention III (claims 9 and 11). Claims 7-11 and 14-20 read on the elected invention.

The present invention as set forth in claims 7 and 9 is directed to a body side wafer including a first part having a first surface with one or more surfaces or elements adapted to be attached to or fixed to a body part of the person and a second, opposite surface; a second part having a first surface with one or more surfaces or elements adapted to be attached to the ostomy bag and a second, opposite surface; and at least one weld zone

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formed between the second surfaces of the first part and the second part, the first surface of the second part being at least substantially smooth at the at least one weld zone. Unity of invention practice under 37 C.F.R. 1.499 requires that the claims share one or more common special technical features that define the contribution which the invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. Both claims 7 and 9 share the common technical feature of at least one weld zone formed between the second surfaces of the first part and the second part, with the first surface of the second part being at least substantially smooth at the at least one weld zone. Therefore, there is unity of invention as between independent claims 7 and 9, and the claims respectively dependent thereon.

With this amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 7-11 and 14-20 of the present application are in condition for examination on the merits as a unitary invention.